WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A crib comprising:

(a) a base system including two end walls configured from foldable sheet material; and

(b) at least one wall assembly configured from foldable sheet material and having at least a first preformed fold line so as to form an integral hinge demarcating at least one side wall and at least a portion of a support element, such that a first fold is formed by folding said wall assembly along said first fold line;

wherein each of two opposite ends of said wall assembly interconnects with one of said two end walls such that said two end walls extend below said support element.

2. The crib of claim 1, wherein said wall assembly is configured with at least said first and a second preformed fold lines so as to form two integral hinges thereby demarcating a support element flanked by two side walls.

3. The crib of claim 2, wherein said wall assembly is further configured with at least a third, fourth and fifth preformed fold lines in said support element such that folding said wall assembly along said third, fourth and fifth preformed fold lines forms a downwardly projecting "V" shaped reinforcement rib in said support element.

4. The crib of claim 1, wherein said end wall includes a curved ground contact surface configured so as to allow the crib to rock, said curved ground contact surface having a rock-limiting contour.

5. The crib of claim 1, wherein each of said end walls is configured from a separate single sheet of material folded over on itself on an end-wall fold such that an outline of a first segment of said end wall on one side of said end-wall fold is substantially a mirror image of at least a portion of an outline of a second segment of said end wall on another side of said end-wall fold.

6. The crib of claim 5, wherein, in a folded position, abutting surfaces of said first and said second segments are fixedly attached.

7. The crib of claim 1, wherein said at least one wall assembly is implemented as two wall assemblies.

8. The crib of claim 7, wherein each said wall assembly is configured from a single sheet such that said side wall of said wall assembly is folded over along a side-wall fold such that an outline of a first section of said side wall on one side of said side-wall fold is substantially a mirror image of at least a portion of an outline of a second section of said side wall on another side of said side-wall fold.

9. The crib of claim 8, wherein, in a folded position, abutting surfaces of said first and second sections of said side wall are fixedly attached.

10. The crib of claim 7, wherein each of said wall assemblies is further configured with a preformed reinforcement rib fold line such that folding said wall assembly along said preformed reinforcement rib fold line forms a reinforcement rib projecting downwardly along an edge of said portion of said support element.

11. The crib of claim 1, wherein said base system further includes at least one bridging element attached to each of said end walls such that said two end walls are mechanically linked by said bridging element, and said end walls extend below said bridging element.

12. The crib of claim 11, wherein said bridging element is configured with at least one longitudinal slot configured to accept insertion of at least one reinforcement rib.

13. The crib of claim 12, wherein said bridging element is configured such that each end is folded so as to form attachment flaps to facilitate attachment to said end walls.

14. The crib of claim 13, wherein said end walls rotate about a fold created by forming said attachment flaps so as to be transformable between a compact storage state and an assembly state.

15. The crib of claim 13, wherein said longitudinal slot extends into said attachment flaps so as to form stabilizing slots adjacent to surfaces of each of said end wall, said stabilizing slots accepting terminal edges of said reinforcement rib.

16. The crib of claim 11, wherein said bridging element is configured with at least one preformed lateral fold line such that folding said bridging element along said preformed lateral fold line brings said end walls into facing abutment such that said base system is variable between a compact storage state and an assembly state.

17. The crib of claim 1, wherein each of said end walls further includes at least two horizontally spaced apart downwardly extending engagement slots and said side wall includes at least two upwardly extending engagement slots, each of said engagement slots located in a region adjacent to a lateral extremity of said side wall, and each of said upwardly extending engagement slots of said side wall mates with a corresponding said downwardly extending engagement slot in each of said end walls thereby interconnecting said side wall with said two end walls.

18. The crib of claim 17, wherein each said end wall is configured from at least two layers of material such that each of said downwardly extending engagement slots is configured from corresponding slot portions formed in each of said layers of said end walls such that each of said downwardly extending engagement slots includes an inwardly projecting ridge.

19. The crib of claim 18, wherein each of said upwardly extending engagement slots is configured from at least two layers of material such that corresponding slot portions are formed in each of said layers of said side walls and one of said corresponding slot portions is longer than another of said corresponding slot portions such that each of said upwardly extending engagement slots includes a surface channel for engaging said projecting ridge.

20. The crib of claim 17, wherein each of said downwardly extending slots is sloped at an angle within the range of from 10°-45° to the vertical.

21. A crib comprising:

(a) a base system including two end walls configured from foldable sheet material, each of said two end walls having at least two horizontally spaced apart downwardly extending engagement slots;

(b) at least one side wall configured from foldable sheet material and having at least two upwardly extending engagement slots, each of said upwardly extending engagement slots located in a region adjacent to a lateral extremity of said side wall; and

(c) at least one support element interconnected with at least one of said base system and said wall assembly, said support element configured to support a load above a surface upon which the crib stands;

wherein each of said upwardly extending engagement slots of said side wall mates with a corresponding said downwardly extending engagement slot in each of said end walls thereby interconnecting said side wall with said two end walls.

22. The crib of claim 21, wherein said side wall and at least a portion of said support element are integrally formed thereby forming a wall assembly that includes at least a first preformed fold line so as to form an integral hinge demarcating at least one side wall and at least a portion of a support element, such that a first fold is formed by folding said wall assembly along said first fold line.

23. The crib of claim 22, wherein said wall assembly is configured with at least said first and a second preformed fold lines so as to form two integral hinges thereby demarcating a support element flanked by two side walls.

24. The crib of claim 22, wherein said wall assembly is further configured with at least a third, fourth and fifth preformed fold lines in said

support element such that folding said wall assembly along said third, fourth and fifth preformed fold lines forms a downwardly projecting "V" shaped reinforcement rib in said support element.

25. The crib of claim 21, wherein each of said end walls is configured from a separate single sheet of material folded over on itself on an end-wall fold such that an outline of a first segment of said end wall on one side of said end-wall fold is a mirror image of at least a portion of an outline of a second segment of said end wall on another side of said end-wall fold.

26. The crib of claim 25, wherein abutting surfaces of said first and said second segments are fixedly attached.

27. The crib of claim 21, wherein said at least one wall assembly is implemented as two wall assemblies.

28. The crib of claim 27, wherein each said wall assembly is configured from a single sheet such that said side wall of said wall assembly is folded over along a side-wall fold such that an outline of a first section of said side wall on one side of said side-wall fold is a mirror image of at least a portion of an outline of a second section of said side wall on another side of said side-wall fold.

29. The crib of claim 28, wherein abutting surfaces of said first and second sections of said side wall are fixedly attached.

30. The crib of claim 25, wherein each of said wall assemblies is further configured with a preformed reinforcement rib fold line such that folding said wall assembly along said preformed reinforcement rib fold line forms a reinforcement rib projecting downwardly along an edge of said support element.

31. The crib of claim 21, wherein said base system further includes at least one bridging element attached to each of said end walls such that said two end walls are mechanically linked by said bridging element, and said end walls extend below said bridging element.

32. The crib of claim 31, wherein said bridging element is configured with at least one longitudinal slot configured to accept insertion of at least one reinforcement rib.

33. The crib of claim 21, wherein each said end wall is configured from at least two layers of material such that each of said downwardly extending engagement slots is configured from corresponding slot portions formed in each of said layers of said end walls such that each of said downwardly extending engagement slots includes an inwardly projecting ridge.

34. The crib of claim 33, wherein each of said upwardly extending engagement slots is configured from at least two layers of material such that corresponding slot portions formed in each of said layers of said side walls such that each of said upwardly extending engagement slots includes a surface channel for engaging said projecting ridge.

35. The crib of claim 21, wherein each of said downwardly extending slots is sloped at an angle ranging from 10°-45° to the vertical.

36. A crib comprising:

(a) a base system configured from foldable sheet material, said base system including:
    (i) two end walls; and
    (ii) at least one bridging element attached to each of said end walls such that said two end walls are mechanically linked by said bridging element, and said end walls extend above and below said bridging element;
(b) at least one side wall configured from foldable sheet material, wherein each of two opposite ends of said side wall interconnects with one of said two end walls such that said two end walls extend below said support element; and

(c) at least one support element configured to interconnect with at least one of said base system and said side wall, said support element configured to rest on said bridging element;

wherein each of two opposite ends of said wall assembly interconnects with one of said two end walls such that said two end walls extend below said support element.

37. The crib of claim 36, wherein said side wall and at least a portion of said support element are integrally formed thereby forming a wall assembly that includes at least a first preformed fold line so as to form an integral hinge demarcating at least one side wall and at least a portion of a support element, such that a first fold is formed by folding said wall assembly along said first fold line.

38. The crib of claim 36, wherein each of said end walls further includes at least two horizontally spaced apart downwardly extending engagement slots and said side wall includes at least two upwardly extending engagement slots, each of said engagement slots located in a region adjacent to a lateral extremity of said side wall, and each of said upwardly extending engagement slots of said side wall mates with a corresponding said downwardly extending engagement slot in each of said end walls thereby interconnecting said side wall with said two end walls.

39. The crib of claim 36, wherein said at least one wall assembly is implemented as two wall assemblies.

40. The crib of claim 39, wherein each of said wall assemblies is further configured with a preformed reinforcement rib fold line such that folding said wall assembly along said preformed reinforcement rib fold line forms a reinforcement rib projecting downwardly along an edge said support element.

41. The crib of claim 36, wherein said bridging element is configured with at least one longitudinal slot configured to accept insertion of at least one reinforcement rib.

42. The crib of claim 41, wherein said bridging element is configured such that each end is folded so as to form attachment flaps to facilitate attachment to said end walls.

43. The crib of claim 42, wherein said longitudinal slot extends into said attachment flaps so as to form stabilizing slots adjacent to surfaces of each of said end wall, said stabilizing slots accepting terminal edges of said reinforcement rib.

44. The crib of claim 36, wherein said bridging element is configured with at least one preformed lateral fold line such that folding said bridging

element along said preformed lateral fold line render said base system in a compact storage state.

45. The crib of claim 36, wherein each of side end walls further includes at least two horizontally spaced apart downwardly extending engagement slots and said side wall includes at least two upwardly extending engagement slots, each of said engagement slots located in a region adjacent to a lateral extremity of said side wall, and each of said upwardly extending engagement slots of said side wall mates with a corresponding said downwardly extending engagement slot in each of said end walls thereby interconnecting said side wall with said two end walls.

46. The crib of claim 45, wherein each said end wall is configured from at least two layers of material such that each of said downwardly extending engagement slots is configured from corresponding slot portions formed in each of said layers of said end walls such that each of said downwardly extending engagement slots includes an inwardly projecting ridge.

47. The crib of claim 46, wherein each of said upwardly extending engagement slots is configured from at least two layers of material such that corresponding slot portions formed in each of said layers of said side walls such that each of said upwardly extending engagement slots includes a surface channel for engaging said projecting ridge.

48. The crib of claim 36, wherein said base system is integrally formed from a single sheet of folded material such that folds demarcate said bridging element from said two end walls.

49. A method for constructing a crib comprising:

(a) providing a base system including two end walls configured from foldable sheet material;

(b) folding a first fold in at least one wall assembly configured from foldable sheet material along at least a first preformed fold line so as to form at least one side wall and at least a portion of a support element, said first fold line forming an integral hinge demarcating said one side wall and said at least a portion of a support element; and

(c) interconnecting each of two opposite ends of said wall assembly with one of said two end walls such that said two end walls extend below said support element.

50. The method of claim 49, further comprising folding said wall assembly along at least said first and a second preformed fold lines, which form two integral hinges, so as to form a support element flanked by two side walls.

51. The method of claim 49, further comprising folding said wall assembly along at least a third, fourth and fifth preformed fold lines in said

support element so as to form a downwardly projecting "V" shaped reinforcement rib in said support element.

52. The method of claim 49, further comprising forming each of said end walls from a separate single sheet of material by folding an end-wall blank over on itself along an end-wall fold such that an outline of a first segment of said end wall on one side of said end-wall fold is substantially a mirror image of at least a portion of an outline of a second segment of said end wall on another side of said end-wall fold.

53. The method of claim 52, further comprising fixedly attaching abutting surfaces of said first and said second segments, when said end-wall blank is folded.

54. The method of claim 49, wherein said at least one wall assembly is implemented as two wall assemblies.

55. The method of claim 54, further comprising forming each said wall assembly from a single sheet by folding a wall-assembly blank over on itself along a side-wall fold such that an outline of a first section of said side wall on one side of said side-wall fold is substantially a mirror image of at least a portion of an outline of a second section of said side wall on another side of said side-wall fold.

56. The method of claim 55, further comprising fixedly attaching abutting surfaces of said first and second sections of said side wall, when said wall-assembly blank is folded.

57. The method of claim 49, further comprising folding each said wall assembly along a preformed reinforcement rib fold line so as to form a reinforcement rib projecting downwardly along an edge of said portion of said support element.

58. The method of claim 49, further comprising attaching at least one bridging element to each of said end walls such that said two end walls are mechanically linked by said bridging element, and said end walls extend below said bridging element.

59. The method of claim 58, further comprising forming said base system from a single sheet of folded material folding a base-system blank along fold lines that demarcate said bridging element from said two end walls as integrally formed portions of said base system.

60. The method of claim 58, further comprising rotating said end walls about at least one fold line so as to be variable between a compact storage state and an assembly state.

61. The method of claim 49, wherein said interconnecting includes engaging ones of at least two horizontally spaced apart downwardly extending engagement slots in each of said end walls with corresponding ones of at least two upwardly extending engagement slots in each of said side wall, each of said upwardly extending engagement slots located in a region adjacent to a lateral extremity of said side wall.

62. The method of claim 61, wherein each said end wall is implemented as at least two attached layers of material such that each of said downwardly extending engagement slots is configured from corresponding slot portions formed in each of said layers of said end walls such that each of said downwardly extending engagement slots includes an inwardly projecting ridge.

63. The method of claim 62, wherein each of said side walls is implemented as at least two attached layers such that each of said upwardly extending engagement slots is configured such that corresponding slot portions formed in each of said layers of said side walls and each of said upwardly extending engagement slots includes a surface channel for engaging said projecting ridge.